

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY PRESENTS HORACE CARTER WITH ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today presented North Carolina writer and businessman W. Horace Carter with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Carter is best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial campaign to rid North Carolina's southern coastline of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1950s.

"Horace Carter has devoted his career to improving the lives of others in North Carolina, whether he was working as an undercover reporter to expose the KKK or as a businessman focused on building a company that provides good jobs to hundreds of people," said Easley. "The citizens of this state are truly blessed to have such a talented writer and businessman among us."

Horace Carter graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1943 and accepted a job in Tabor City in 1948 where he started the *Tabor City Tribune*. As editor, publisher and writer, he felt a duty to report the prejudice and violence the Ku Klux Klan created. A two-year campaign of editorials brought financial boycotts to his small paper and death threats and vandalism to Carter and his family. Carter's editorials helped spur the first convictions and imprisonment of Klansmen for KKK activities. For his efforts, the *Tribune* received the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Community Service in 1953, the most prestigious of the Pulitzers, and the first won by a weekly newspaper.

At age 86, Carter continues to write for the paper he founded, now known as the *Tabor-Loris Tribune*. He has written 26 books on fishing and the outdoors. In 2001, Carter published his autobiography, "*Only In America: The Life and Times of an American Newspaper Editor*." The book was printed at Atlantic Packaging, a company Carter founded in 1965.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is presented to outstanding North Carolinians who have a proven record of service to the state, and is the highest civilian award presented by the Governor.

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